

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 08046 131100Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03
PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 MCT-01 /056 W
-----088473 131107Z /13

O 131051Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6594
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS CAIRO 08046

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EG IS PINS
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL REACTION TO TERRORIST RAID

SUMMARY: FIRST OFFICIAL REACTION TO RAID EMPHASIZES
NECESSITY OF SOLVING ME PROBLEM BY COMPREHENSIVE SETTLE-
MENT, INCLUDING SOLUTION OF PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. STATE-
MENT BY BOUTROS GHALI LINKS SECURITY FOR ALL STATES IN
AREA, INCLUDING ISRAEL, TO SUCH A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLE-
MENT. INCIDENT IN ISRAEL PROVES SOUNDNESS OF EGYPT'S
STAND AND SADAT'S INITIATIVE. END SUMMARY.

1. A FRONT-PAGE STORY IN AKHBAR REPORTED A "RESPONSIBLE
MFA SOURCE" AS SAYING "EXPLOSION OF THE BUS WHICH TOOK
PLACE YESTERDAY IN ISRAEL REITERATES THE SOUNDNESS OF
THE EGYPTIAN STAND AS EXPRESSED BY PRESIDENT SADAT'S
INITIATIVE, WHICH UNDERLINED NECESSITY OF SPEEDING UP
A COMPREHENSIVE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST
PROBLEM." THE SOURCE ADDED THAT "PEACE CANNOT BE REALIZED
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UNLESS THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM IS SETTLED IN ALL ITS
ASPECTS AND THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE ARE ABLE TO EXERCISE
THEIR LEGITIMATE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION." THE
SOURCE FURTHER SAID THAT "THE POLICY REJECTING THE
RECOGNITION OF LEGITIMATE ARAB RIGHTS IS TO BLAME FOR
PLUNGING THE AREA INTO VIOLENCE AND KILLING FOR THE PAST
30 YEARS AND THAT SADAT'S INITIATIVE AIMS AT COMING OUT

OF THIS THROUGH THE RECOGNITION OF RIGHT AND JUSTICE."

2. AL AHRAM ALSO INCLUDED AS PART OF ITS COVERAGE OF THE MFA SOURCE'S STATEMENT COMMENTS BY MINSTATE BOUTROS GHALI TO FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS THAT "SECURITY FOR ALL COUNTRIES OF THE AREA, PARTICULARLY ISRAEL, WILL NOT BE REALIZED THROUGH ESTABLISHMENT OF SETTLEMENTS, OCCUPATION OF TERRITORY OR DENIAL OF THE BASIC RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. IT CAN ONLY BE GUARANTEED THROUGH A COMPREHENSIVE AND JUST SETTLEMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM ON THE BASIS OF TOTAL WITHDRAWAL AND RESTORATION OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE'S RIGHTS."

3. AL AKHBAR AND AL AHRAM CARRIED THE MFA SOURCE STATEMENT IN STORIES ON PAGE 1, WHILE GUMHURIYYA CARRIED CARRIED STATEMENT ON PAGE 11 AS PART OF LARGER STORY OF COMMANDO OPERATION. EGYPTIAN GAZETTE REPORTED THAT A "SENIOR EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL" SAID THAT ATTACK WAS "'A NEW OBSTACLE' IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE", A COMMENT WHICH DID NOT APPEAR IN THE ARABIC PRESS. EILTS

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